SAINTPAULMINNESOTA

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Saint Paul's Environmental Initiatives

The City of Saint Paul has become a leader in sustainable urban living by taking proactive steps to protect its air, water and landscape. The city is focusing on carbon dioxide reduction activities in the areas of energy efficiency, energy conservation, alternative fuels, recycling, waste reduction, alternative transportation, reforestation, green space creation and preservation, and water quality protection.

Key accomplishments:

- In February 2008, the City of Saint Paul ranked 11th on the list of "America's Top 50 Greenest Cities." (Source: *Popular Science Magazine*)
- City policy requires that all new or significantly renovated municipal facilities use one of two well-established standards: 1) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) or 2) State of Minnesota Sustainable Building Guidelines (B3).
- In December 2007, the City of Saint Paul opened its first "green" building the Saint Paul Police Department's Western District Police Facility. The 38,000 square-foot, \$10.5 million structure will house more than 100 police officers who serve the western portion of Saint Paul.
 - The building is certified LEED Gold.
 - The building's "green" features include a white roof, A-410 cooling, solar tubes, occupancy HVAC and lighting sensors, closed combustion boiler, and storm water management techniques (e.g., rain gardens and pervious parking surfaces).
 - The collective payback period for the building's "green" features is three years.
- Energy efficiency renovations are underway at the Saint Paul Division of Parks and Recreation's Linwood Recreation Center and the Phalen Golf Course Clubhouse. The upgrades will have a two- to five-year payback and will qualify for a combined \$17,170 rebate from Xcel Energy.
 - The clubhouse will annually save a projected \$7,730 in electricity and \$7,945 on gas.
 - The recreation center will annually save a projected \$6,833 on electricity and \$2,988 on gas.
- Approximately 47% of materials brought to Saint Paul neighborhood cleanups in 2007 were recycled or reused, which amounted to 460 tons.

- Residents are no longer charged to bring electronics to cleanup events.
- Additional funds are available for the city's district councils to coordinate litter pickup along public streets and sidewalks before, during, or after cleanup days.
- In July 2008, Xcel Energy decommissioned Saint Paul's coal-burning power plant and replaced it with a new clean-burning, combined-cycle natural gas plant.
- The Xcel Energy Center and much of downtown Saint Paul is heated and cooled by green energy produced by District Energy Saint Paul.
 - District Energy was created as a public-private partnership in response to the energy crisis of the 1970s to provide reliable, cost-effective heat in a northern metropolitan area.
 - The company owns North America's largest hot water district heating system, and serves more than 475 commercial, industrial and residential buildings.
 - The District Energy plant is located one block from the Republican National Convention press center. In 2001, President George W. Bush toured the facility immediately before delivering his first energy policy address to the nation. In that address, the President called District Energy a model of energy efficiency, diversity and affordability.

Key programming facts:

- Saint Paul is investing \$1 million in the Energy Conservation Investment Fund, a revolving loan account that supports energy-efficiency investments with a documented payback of less than 10 years for city-owned buildings. This investment will help conserve energy, reduce carbon dioxide emissions, and provide substantial long-term savings for taxpayers.
- Saint Paul, Ramsey County, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the Environmental Protection Agency formed GreenGatherings to help "green up" events of all sizes in the Twin Cities metro area, beginning with the 2008 Republican National Convention.
 - The purpose of GreenGatherings is to build a lasting environmental legacy, protect the region's natural resources, educate citizens and visitors about green choices, provide tools and information to help people plan and implement environmentally friendly events, and demonstrate the economic and community benefits of greening.
- In 2007, Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman and Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak announced the formation of the Mayors' Initiative on Green Manufacturing with the Blue Green Alliance. The Mayors and a team of environmental, labor, business, and nonprofit leaders are examining how Saint Paul and Minneapolis can promote and develop green manufacturing technologies and products, while also creating jobs.

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